

THE KABUL TIMES DAILY

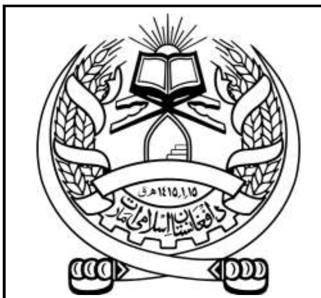
www.thekabultimes.com | twitter.com/thekabultimes | info@thekabultimes.com | facebook.com/thekabultimes

Founded in 1962

Hoot 30-1403 Thursday 20 March 2025 INo: 304-Vol: LXII

Kabul 16° Sunny | Kandahar 27° Sunny | Herat 26° Sunny | Jalalabad 27° Sunny | Mazar-e-Sharif 24° Sunny | Bamyan 3° Sunny

Leader's decree bans young girls' forced marriage



KABUL: The Supreme Leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Shaikh Mullah Hebatullah Akhundzada, in a decree has banned the forceful marrying of young girls in the country.

The decree on preventing undesirable customs in society said: "No one has the right to forcefully marry young girls."

Based on the decree, the responsibility and obligation of young girls lies with their father and elder brother, and no one has the right to force or coerce them.

The decree also recognizes the dowry as a woman's basic right and emphasizes that no one has the right to take it back.

It is also stated in part of the decree that without a dowry, it is wrong to receive any money under the name of a dowry, holidays, and special occasions. Holding various ceremonies, including Paivazi is unlawful, the decree said, ordering to prohibit them.

The decree also banned expenses after pilgrims return from the Hajj and Umrah ceremonies, as well as cooking in the family of the deceased.

Preventing celebratory firing at any festive events and the use of Emirati cars at ceremonies and private gatherings have also been banned by the decree. **The Kabul Times**

Afghanistan poses no threat to other country, Fitrat



KABUL: Hamdullah Fitrat, the deputy spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate, said the other day that Afghanistan's geography is fully under Islamic Emirate control and poses no threat to any country.

Fitrat made the remarks in response to recent remarks of Russian President Vladimir Putin regarding potential threats and challenges from Afghanistan.

"The entire geography of Afghanistan is under the control of the Islamic Emirate, and no threat or danger originates from Afghanistan towards any country.

Therefore, such concerns are baseless," he emphasized.

The spokesman stressed that the Islamic Emirate has always been committed to having constructive and productive relations with neighboring countries, particularly northern neighbors, and has proven this commitment through fighting against Daesh and drug smugglers.

The Kabul Times

China committed to support reconstruction, healthcare in Afghanistan, ambassador



KABUL: The Chinese Ambassador to Kabul, Zhao Xing, met with the acting Minister of Public Health, Mawlavi Noor Jalal Jalali, assuring his country's commitment to supporting Afghanistan's reconstruction efforts, particularly in the healthcare sector, the ministry said in a statement Wednesday. Inspecting the reconstruction work of Al-Shifa Hospital, Minister Jalali emphasized the importance of the reforms taking place at Al-Shifa Hospital, highlighting its role in providing specialized and tertiary medical services to the Afghan people.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Zhao Xing expressed China's commitment to supporting Afghanistan's reconstruction efforts, particularly in the healthcare sector, assuring that China would continue to provide assistance in the areas of equipment, reconstruction, and expansion of Al-Shifa Hospital, reinforcing the partnership between the two nations.

The Kabul Times

Agreement signed to facilitate electronic payment



KABUL: The Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank signed an agreement to integrate the payment systems (Edeniz) and facilitate electronic payments, the DAB said in a statement Wednesday.

The agreement facilitates the transparent collection of revenues, government expenditures, and electronic payment of salaries of the Emirati employees, the statement said, adding it was signed by Abdul Qadir Ahmad, Deputy Minister of Finance, and Sediqullah Khalid, Deputy of the Central Bank.

Based on the agreement, the interbank payment systems of Da Afghanistan Bank (ACSS) and the Afghanistan Payment System (APS) will be connected to the Ministry of Finance systems including ASYCUDA, SIGTAS, and AFMIS, the statement added.

Speaking at the ceremony, Sediqullah Khalid, the First Deputy of the Central Bank, stated that the integration of payment systems between the DAB and the Ministry of Finance is a significant step towards strengthening the financial infrastructure, accelerating payment processes, and ensuring transparency and efficiency in the country's financial operations.

See P4

Acceleration of work on TAP project discussed, ministry



KABUL: The acting Minister of Energy and Water, Mullah Abdul Latif Mansour, in a meeting with Khawaja Awadov, the Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, emphasized on the acceleration of practical work on the TAP project, the ministry said in a statement Wednesday.

According to the statement, the Turkmen ambassador asked the Ministry of Energy and Water to share the project's roadmap with Turkmenistan for greater coordination in the project.

Mullah Mansour assured that the roadmap for the project has been finalized by his-led ministry and will be shared with Turkmenistan soon. The TAP project, for which initial steps have been taken to begin practical work, will transmit high-voltage electricity from Turkmenistan to Pakistan through the provinces of Herat, Farah, Helmand, and Kandahar, and Afghanistan will earn significant annual revenue from the transit of the electricity. Implementing development projects paves the way for long-term, sustainable growth by creating infrastructures, systems, and capacities that can serve communities for generations and directly enhance living standards. **The Kabul Times**

Herat National Gallery inaugurated, ministry



KABUL: The National Gallery of the Herat Provincial Department of Information and Culture, in an official ceremony, has been inaugurated, the Ministry of Information and Culture said in a statement Wednesday.

The ceremony was attended by the Director of the provincial Information and Culture, Mawlavi Ahmadullah Muttaqi, Cenk Onal, the Turkish Ambassador to Kabul, the Director of TIKA, cultural figures, writers, and calligraphers, the statement said.

Mawlavi Muttaqi expressed gratitude for Türkiye's efforts and activities in the cultural sector, saying that the work done by the TIKA administration and Turkish government institutions in the cultural and historical sectors is commendable.

The Turkish Ambassador to Kabul said that his country has implemented development and reconstruction projects in various provinces of Afghanistan, but in the historical and ancient province of Herat, the main focus has been on the restoration of historical monuments and cultural projects. Previously, TIKA had also completed projects such as the reconstruction of the public library, the Herat Literary Association, the Calligraphers Association, and the Allama Salahuddin Seljuqi Salon, the statement concluded.

The Kabul Times

Hundreds of weapons, thousands of military vehicles repaired in past one year, MoD





KABUL: A total of 277 various types of light and heavy weapons and 2,110 different types of military vehicles which had earlier been destroyed and were unusable, have been repaired by the technical team of the 201th Khalid bin Walid Army Corps of the Ministry of National Defense over the past year, the ministry said in a statement Wednesday.

The repaired vehicles include dozens of Humvee tanks, Russian tanks with tracked systems, international trucks, assault tanks, and cranes, as well as various types of light and heavy weapons, the statement said.

It is to be noted that the repaired weapons and vehicles belong to the previous government which had been left destroyed and as a result of efforts of the technical team of the army corps of the ministry have been repaired and are ready for use in any military operation.

After the resumption of power by the Islamic Emirate, thousands of various types of destroyed military vehicles and weapons have so far been repaired by engineering teams of the ministry.

The Kabul Times

Passenger, cargo vehicle parking lot to be constructed in Baghlan, ministry



KABUL: The Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation said Wednesday in a statement that the construction work on a passenger and cargo vehicle parking lot worth 50 million Afghani has been kicked off in Baghlan province.

Habib-ur-Rahman Rahimi, Advisor for the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, stated that the project will be implemented before the reconstruction of the Salang Highway and the connection of Afghanistan to China through the Wakhan Corridor.

He stated that the parking lot will be constructed on 46 acres of land in Pul-e-Khumri city, providing free rooms for drivers to stay and accommodate thousands of vehicles. Previously, the construction work on a parking lot and terminal worth 73.2 million Afghani has been kicked off at the Mawlana Jalaluddin Mohammad Balkhi International Airport in Balkh province. It should be said that the Northern Highway, which connects Kabul to Central Asia, passes through Baghlan and is considered an important transit and trade corridor for Afghanistan. **The Kabul Times**

International-Daily
WWW.TheKabulTimes.com
Uzair Baryalay, Director of Govt. Dailies
Email: Atvaishan@gmail.com
Editor-in-Chief, Nik Mohammad Nikmal
Email: Nikmal@TheKabulTimes.com
Mob: (+93)700 208 103
Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Fathulbari Akhgar
Mob: (+93)748 076 223
Distribution: 0202 312 509-(+93)766 044 966)
Graphic designers: Baktash Shiabani, Ali and Habibullah Aiman
Translators: Abdul Baqi Haqyar, Noor Ahmad and Hamid Jhwok
Cartoonist: Sayed Hassan Samedi
Address: 8th PD, Olympic Square, East of Chaman-e-Huzori, Kabul, Afghanistan

Food for thought

Today's generation guarantees our bright future

No evidence of threat from Afghanistan to other countries

Afghanistan has fought for decades to restore peace and security for its nation and to eliminate any anti-security element using Afghanistan soil to pose a threat to other nations.

The recent remarks by Russia on the potential threat from Afghanistan is a flimsy claim under which that country suspended delisting Afghanistan from its banned groups.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, in a joint press conference with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, said that his country was aware of security threats and challenges stemming from Afghanistan and emphasized the need to secure Central Asia.

In response to Vladimir Putin's recent statement on the potential threat from Afghanistan, Hamdullah Fitrat, deputy spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate, said that Afghanistan's geography is fully under Islamic Emirate control and poses no threat to any country.

It's clear that the entire geography of Afghanistan is under the control of the Islamic Emirate, and no threat or danger originates from Afghanistan to other nations. So, such concerns are unfounded and can disturb the public minds regarding the security situation in Afghanistan and affect relations between the two friendly countries as since the return of the Islamic Emirate to power, Russia maintained its close interaction with Afghanistan and political and economic ties are still continuing between the two nations.

As the deputy Islamic Emirate spokesman believed, Afghanistan under the Islamic Emirate has consistently sought good relations with neighboring countries, particularly northern neighbors, and has demonstrated this commitment through actions.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has frequently said that if any country doubts about militants' presence in Afghanistan, they can present their evidence or avoid accusing a secure country of being used by illegal armed groups or foreign militants' either with or without collaboration with the Islamic Emirate to threat the security of other countries, as all parts of the country are under full control of the Islamic Emirate security forces.

In case of any militant group's presence in a scattered manner in the country, the security forces of the country immediately resort to their elimination after being reported.

Afghanistan wants to develop with the help of its people and foreign investors, and this goal can't never be reached unless political and economic ties strengthen between Afghanistan and world countries, particularly its neighbors and regional countries.

So, all world countries, particularly Russia, are assured that they should feel no threat stemming from Afghanistan under the leadership of the Islamic Emirate.

Time to lift unjust sanctions, unfreeze Afghanistan assets

The Islamic Emirate called on the UN mission to make all necessary efforts towards lifting unjust sanctions on the Afghan nation and unfreezing the country's assets.

The United Nations Security Council has announced the extension of the mission of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

The UNSC decision reflects the ongoing international commitment to supporting Afghanistan during challenging times.

The Security Council issued a message on X, stating that the resolution to extend the UNAMA mission was unanimously approved for another year.

All 15 members of the council cast affirmative votes, signaling collective international support for the mission.

Although the UNAMA mission in Afghanistan has not been effective as it has not made necessary efforts towards lifting all sanctions on Afghanistan and unfreezing the country's assets in the past over three years, it is crucial for the mission to remain engaged and make further efforts towards lifting sanctions on Afghanistan and unfreezing the country's assets.

The continued extension of UNAMA's mission underscores the global community's commitment to Afghanistan's stability and development.

The Islamic Emirate has also reacted to the decision by the UN Security Council to extend the mandate of the UNAMA mission in Afghanistan.



The Islamic Emirate called on the UN mission to make all necessary efforts towards lifting unjust sanctions on the Afghan nation and unfreezing the country's assets.

"We request that UNAMA focus, as is necessary, on strengthening the relationship between Afghanistan, the United Nations, and other nations," said the Islamic Emirate spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid.

"This should include a proper reflection of Afghanistan's security, economic, and social advancements, the protection of the international rights of the Afghan people, the removal of unjust sanctions, the cessation of financial embezzlement, and the restoration of Afghanistan's rightful representation within the United Nations to the Afghan people," he added.

Urging the world body's mission to make "all necessary efforts toward these critical objectives," Mujahid said: "UNAMA should avoid generating undue concerns, as seen in the past, and refrain from exploiting one or two issues to engage in propaganda against Afghanistan or becoming a tool for the benefit of partisan or malicious agendas."

The economic sanctions that have been imposed by Western countries on Afghanistan are not just economic pressures but are part of a larger international effort aimed at weakening the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and questioning the country's independence. Western countries, especially the United States, want to use these sanctions to force Afghans to rely solely on international aid to run their economy.

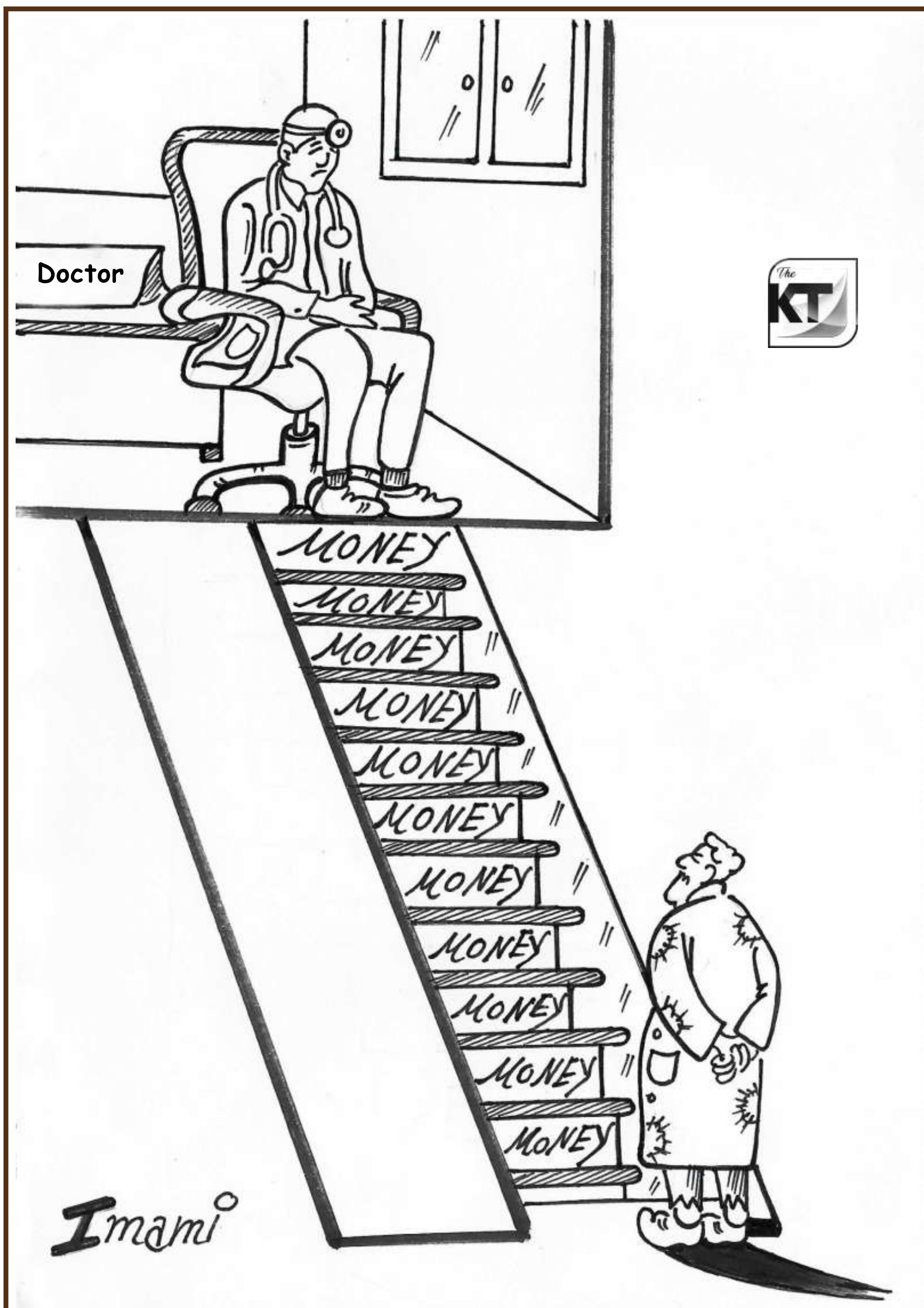
The main goal behind the Western economic sanctions is to crush the hopes of the Afghans and to use them as a method of mental domination.

The sanctions, which focus on blocking banking, international trade relations, and resources, make it difficult for Afghans to meet their daily needs, but the main goal of the Western countries' policy is to not only put economic pressure on the Islamic Emirate but also to negatively affect the moral of the entire nation.

It is the time for the international community, particularly the UNAMA mission that has been extended for another year, to make efforts and take all necessary steps towards lifting all sanctions on the people of Afghanistan and unfreezing the country's assets.

It is also the time for all Afghans to work to strengthen the country's economy, use their internal strength, create investment opportunities, and expand trade based on their interests.

Sayed Sharif



Israel's new attacks on Gaza & international silence

The brutal attacks of the Zionist occupying regime against the innocent people of Palestine continue, and the world's major powers, instead of stopping the atrocities of the Zionist regime, have declared their support for the regime's new attacks.



In recent incidents, the Zionist regime's air forces have once again launched attacks on the innocent residents of Gaza.

Based on media reports, more than 300 Palestinians have been martyred in new Israeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip, shattering a fragile ceasefire.

Simultaneously, the United States and its allies have launched airstrikes on various parts of Yemen. The crimes of the Zionist regime are not only a humanitarian disaster but also a clear violation of international law.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in a statement has vehemently condemned the resumption of attacks by Israeli occupying regime on the Gaza Strip, resulting the loss of over 300 innocent lives, including a huge number of women and children.

"Such brutal action by the Zionist regime not only contravenes international laws and human rights principles but also stands in stark contravention to fundamental humanitarian values. Once again, the Islamic Emirate calls on the relevant and influential countries to voice their strong support for the oppressed people of Palestine and take pragmatic and decisive measures to end the occupation," the statement said.

According to the statement, as always, considering the Palestinian cause a fundamental and a shared issue of the Islamic Ummah, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan acknowledges their legitimate struggle and resistance as a legitimate cause, and reaffirms its support.

Over the past year and a half, Israeli military attacks have claimed the lives of thousands of Palestinians, injured thousands more, and forced millions from their homes.

Despite all this, the international community, human rights organizations, and the UN leadership have responded only in words.

If the world's great powers support human rights and dignities, why are the voices of the oppressed Palestinian people not heard? Why do UN resolutions remain only empty declarations? Why are Islamic countries, which should stand by Palestine, keep silent? Like these, there are dozens of questions that can question the justice of the world.

Today, the Islamic world must take practical action against these injustices. Statements of condemnation alone are not enough; Palestine must be provided with military, political, and economic support.

Economic sanctions must be imposed on the Zionist occupying regime so that their occupation activities must be stopped.

The Islamic countries, claiming to be Muslim brotherhoods, must take real steps for the liberation and support of Palestine and its people.

If Islamic countries impose economic sanctions on the Zionist occupying regime, if they take a united stand against its supporters, and if they provide military and financial assistance to Palestine, this will be a major change for the liberation of the Palestinian people.

We call on the leaders of the Islamic countries, international human rights organizations, and every conscientious person in the free world to listen to the voice of the oppressed Palestinian people and take practical steps to prevent the crimes of the Zionist occupying regime, as only statements, conferences, and empty condemnations do not benefit the Palestinians.

If the silence of the international community continues, it will be a historical betrayal, and future generations will never forgive this crime at all.

Mukhtar Safi

The three stages of the month of Ramadan

Ramadan is a month of fasting, reflection, devotion, generosity, and sacrifice observed by Muslims around the world.

Over the centuries, Ramadan has retained its passionate spiritual meaning.

The word "Ramadan" comes from the Arabic word for "Parched Thirst" and "Sun-Baked Ground." It is meaningful of the hunger and thirst felt by those who spend the month in fasting and get the benefits from fasting. Ramadan is, by nature, a time of sacrifice.

The month of Ramadan lasts 29 to 30 days, depending on moon sighting, and according to narration, Allah Almighty divides the Holy month of Ramadan into three Stages that are known as the 'Ashra' of Ramadan. Ashra of Ramadan: The first part reflects the mercy of Allah (Rehmah), the second part reflects the forgiveness of Allah (Maghfirah), and the third part reflects safety from hell (Nijat).

The Holy Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) said: Ramadan is the month, whose beginning is mercy, its middle, forgiveness and its end, emancipation from the fire (of hell). No doubt, the month of Ramadan is full of blessings, mercy, and forgiveness. It's the best opportunity for all Muslims to collect more blessings from Allah, pray for their forgiveness, and to be saved from the torment on the day of judgment.

First Ashra of Ramadan – Mercy: The first ten days of Ramadan are the days of Mercy and blessing and every Muslim must seek the Mercy and Blessings of Almighty Allah. Dua for the first Ashra is: "O! My Lord forgives and have Mercy and You are the Best of Merciful" (Quran 23:118)

Second Ashra of Ramadan – Forgiveness: The second ten days of Ramadan, day 11th to day 20th, consist of the Ashra of forgiveness. Muslims must seek the forgiveness of Allah Almighty and regret for all their mistakes. Dua for the second Ashra is: "I ask forgiveness of my sins from Allah who is my Lord, and I turn towards Him."

Third Ashra of Ramadan – Safety: The third Ashra starts on the 21st of Ramadan and ends 29th or 30th of Ramadan, according to the moon. Third Ashra is known as Safety from Hell (Nijat). Every Muslim must pray to be safe from Hellfire. The Last Ashra is very important and superior. In this Ashra, the Night of Power (Lailatul Qadar) also falls, and many Muslims also practice Aitkaf (seclusion for prayers) in this Ashra and try to maximize their prayers.

As stated in Quran: "We sent it (Quran) down on a blessed Night. Verily, We are ever warning. Therein (in that Night) is decreed every matter of ordainment. Amran (i.e. a command or this Quran or His Decree of every matter) from Us. Verily, We are ever sending (the Messenger) (As) a Mercy from your Lord." (Quran 44:3-6). Dua of the third Ashra is: "O Allah, save me from the fire of Hell."



It is worth mentioning that each year Muslims spend the ninth month of the Islamic calendar observing a community-wide fast.

The fast of the month of Ramadan is considered one of the five pillars of Islam. Muslims who are physically able are required to fast each day of the entire month from dawn to sunset.

Fida Mohammad

From war-torn to thriving; Helmand & Kandahar's sand dunes draw tourists

Although climate change has severely affected Afghanistan in recent years, leading to the destruction of many natural parks and recreational green spaces, there are still places across the country where young people go for leisure during holidays.

In the southern provinces of Afghanistan, particularly Kandahar and Helmand, vast deserts and open spaces have transformed into recreational sites. On Fridays and holidays, hundreds of young people flock to these areas for leisure activities.

Located 35 kilometers from Kandahar city, in the Dand district, lies a vast sandy area known as Ibrahim Khalifa Baba, which has gained the status of a national park. Young people visit this site for recreation, where, in addition to other activities, they engage in motor racing.

Every Friday, hundreds of Kandahari drivers gather here with their Toyota vehicles to compete, drawing inspiration from the desert racing culture in Dubai and other Arab countries.

These sand dunes have attracted visitors due to their expansive landscapes, making them an ideal destination for leisure.

Mohammad Anwar Abasin, a 28-year-old resident of Kandahar city, regularly visits this scenic location on Fridays and other holidays. Speaking to The Kabul Times, he said that from the beginning of winter until the weather warms up, not only Kandahar's youth but also people from other provinces in the region visit these sand dunes for recreation.

He mentioned that besides car racing, young people also participate in other sports and even cook meals at the site.

"Ever since the war in Afghanistan ended, the number of visitors to Khalifa Baba's sand dunes has significantly increased, and many people who came to visit these sand dunes, said that accessibility has improved, making it easier for people to visit compared to the past.

He stated, "We urge those who participate in car racing here to be very cautious, as it can be dangerous."

In neighboring Helmand province, former conflict zones have now transformed into safe recreational areas, attracting visitors.



now come here," he said.

He added, "Ebrahim Khalifa Baba's sand dunes have now become a recreational site. On Fridays, many people come here with their vehicles and engage in car sports. Visitors also play sports such as cricket, football, and volleyball in the sand dunes. .

Some bring their own food and enjoy picnics with their friends."

Other Kandahar residents who visit these locations for recreation during the winter season urge drivers to exercise caution while engaging in vehicle sports.

Nematullah, a young man

About 20 kilometers southeast of the provincial capital, Lashkargah, lies a vast sandy area known as "Registan," situated opposite the historic Bust Fortress.

Every Friday, hundreds of people visit this location for leisure.

The Kabul Times journalist spoke with Mohammad Sadiq, the leader of a group of ten visitors who had come for recreation.

He said that Helmand's sand dunes, commonly known as "Registan," are excellent for leisure, and young people particularly enjoy visiting them during the winter season.

He added that the security situation has significantly improved, encouraging more visitors to explore such places.

"This is a very beautiful area with sand dunes. We come here on Fridays, play in the dunes, meet other visitors, and cook food. It's a great place. We hope the government will provide additional facilities to further enhance the recreational experience here," he said.

Helmand, once considered a battlefield of intense conflict, has now become a land of recreation.

According to officials from the province's Department of Information and Culture, since the Islamic Emirate came to power, not only have domestic visitors flocked to Helmand's recreational sites, but 103 foreign tourists from various countries have also visited the province.

Ehsanullah Wolasmal

Public services; a source of successful governance

Part III

In the previous section of the article, we discussed the provision of commercial services to improve trade. Now, it is necessary to add that in order to enhance the trade situation, the government must establish a transparent customs system, facilitate the issuance of commercial licenses, and provide financial incentives to create an environment where domestic and foreign traders can invest with greater confidence.

To address this problem, the government must strengthen highway security, reconstruct trade routes, and develop railway and air transport systems. These measures will boost domestic and international trade, creating more opportunities for economic growth.

Governments must create conditions for the development of domestic and international trade.

Reducing customs tariffs, facilitating the export and import process, establishing standard markets, and supporting traders are among the responsibilities of a responsible government.

Enacting transparent laws to protect investors will increase investments and stimulate economic growth. Additionally, facilitating the transportation of goods through the construction of standard roads and efficient banking systems will expand trade.

It is worth mentioning that, thanks to Allah, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has reduced customs tariffs on certain goods and improved security on trade routes, which has led to an increase in trade exchanges.

Another important element in the provision of government services is education and learning.

Education, as one of the most fundamental human needs, plays a crucial role in the growth and development of societies.

In Afghanistan, the education sector in many areas has faced challenges such as a shortage of professional teachers, a lack of adequate educational materials, and limited access to quality schools.

Governments should enhance educational systems, increase the number of schools and educational centers in remote areas, and provide necessary facilities for students to ensure that education is accessible to all segments of society.

Improving the quality of education must also be a priority so that students can compete in various academic and technical fields.

In addition to primary and secondary education, technical and vocational training is also of great significance. In Afghanistan, many young people have been unable to enter the job market due to a lack of technical skills.

The government should offer vocational training programs to equip young people with practical and efficient skills. This initiative will not only help reduce unemployment but also strengthen the technical and specialized workforce, contributing to economic and social development.

Access to primary education is one of the fundamental rights of citizens.

A responsible government must ensure the provision of free, high-quality, and inclusive education.

Standard schools, modern curricula, and professional teachers are key elements of a successful educational system. Governments must pay special attention to underprivileged areas and ensure that children in all provinces have access to schooling.

Alongside academic education, moral and religious training should also be strengthened so that students become responsible citizens.

Regarding the provision of educational services, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has achieved significant progress since regaining control.

This government has reopened schools and has been planning to improve the curriculum. Additionally, to strengthen the education sector, it has reopened schools in various regions and has made efforts to equip them with new educational resources.

Firoz Ahmad Ebrahimi

THE KABUL TIMES DAILY

Hoot 30-1403 Thursday 20 March 2025 INo: 304-Vol: LXII

Currency	Amount		AFN
USD	01	AFN	71.05
GBP	01	AFN	92.18
INR	1000	AFN	821
PKR	1000	AFN	244
EUR	01	AFN	77.48
IRR	1000	AFN	01.28
AED	01	AFN	19.20



Ramadan Volleyball Tournament kicks off in Nangarhar

A Ramadan Volleyball Night Tournament has started in Nangarhar province, featuring teams from three provinces competing in an exciting series of matches.

The tournament is organized by the Afghanistan Volleyball Federation's Nangarhar branch under the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports. The games are being held at Seraaj-ul-Amarat Garden in Jalalabad city, with 24 teams from Nangarhar, Laghman, and Kunar provinces taking part.

In the opening match, Moqadas Volleyball Team secured a 2-1 victory over the Ghochako Team, marking the tournament's first win.

The event aims to strengthen unity among young athletes while providing them with a competitive platform to display their talent. The tournament will run for



10 days, drawing volleyball enthusiasts from across the region.

Local sports officials have praised the initiative, highlighting its role in promoting sportsmanship and healthy activities during Ramadan month. The night format allows players and fans to enjoy the matches comfortably after fasting hours, adding to the excitement of the event.

The Kabul Times

Kabul hosts Ramadan Cycling Championship

The Ramadan Cycling Championship was successfully held in Kabul, bringing together 50 athletes for a day of intense competition. The event was organized by the Afghanistan National Cycling Federation in collaboration with the General Directorate of the National Olympic Committee, Physical Education, and Sports.

Cyclists competed in three different age categories—teenagers, youth, and adults—demonstrating their skills in freestyle, mountain biking, and road racing. The race covered a 25-kilometer distance, starting from the National Sports Directorate and ending at Habibia High School in Darul Aman. The opening ceremony was attended by Dad Mohammad Payenda Akhtari, the head of Olympic affairs, along with senior officials from the National Cycling Federation and the participating athletes.

After an intense competition, Saeedullah Saadat won first place in the youth category (road racing), while Naqibullah secured victory in the youth category (mountain biking).

The main objectives of the tournament were to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan, promote the sport of cycling, and encourage youth participation in healthy activities.

Organizers emphasized the importance of such events in developing sports culture and inspiring young athletes to engage in cycling as both a competitive and recreational sport.

The championship was widely welcomed by cycling enthusiasts and sports officials, who expressed their hope for more such tournaments to further develop cycling in Afghanistan.

The Kabul Times

Afghanistan to face UAE, Iran, and Indonesia in Beach Soccer Asian Cup

The 2025 AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup officially kicks off today (Thursday, March 20) in Thailand, featuring 12 teams from across Asia. The tournament is divided into four groups, with Afghanistan placed in Group C.

The Afghan national team will play three matches in the group stage:

- Friday: Afghanistan vs. United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- Sunday: Afghanistan vs. Iran
- Tuesday: Afghanistan vs. Indonesia

This tournament serves as a qualifier for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, making it a crucial event for all competing nations. The Afghan squad faces a tough challenge, especially against Iran and the UAE, which have strong records in beach soccer. However, the team remains determined to make a mark in the tournament.

Beach soccer is rapidly gaining popularity in Afghanistan, and this competition provides a valuable opportunity for Afghan players to showcase their talent on an international stage. Fans and sports analysts are eager to see how the team performs in Thailand. With high hopes and national pride at stake, the Afghan beach soccer team is prepared to give its best effort in this prestigious tournament. **The Kabul Times**

Israel launches fresh Gaza strikes as it vows to fight 'in full force'

At least 13 people have reportedly been killed in air strikes across Gaza overnight, after Israel said it was resuming combat



operations in the Palestinian territory.

Two civilians were killed and five others injured when an Israeli drone hit a tent near the al-Mawasi humanitarian zone, the Palestinian Wafa news agency reports, citing Red Crescent medics.

Israel's army said it had targeted what it called a Hamas military site from where the group was preparing to fire into Israel. Vessels controlled by Hamas were also hit, the army said.

It comes after Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said fighting would resume "in full force", adding: "This is just the beginning."

The bombing is not of the same scale as it was on Tuesday, when the Hamas-run health ministry says more than 400 people were killed - but it shows no let-up in Israel's fresh assault.

Tuesday's strikes were the heaviest since a fragile ceasefire and hostage exchange deal came into effect on 19 January, and came after Israel and Hamas failed to agree how to take it beyond an initial phase.

The deal involves three stages, and negotiations on the second stage were meant to have started six weeks ago - but this did not happen.

Under the proposed second phase, Israel would withdraw troops from Gaza - but Israel and the US instead pushed for an extension of the first phase, with more hostages being released in exchange for more Palestinian prisoners.

Netanyahu cast the resumption of fighting as a return to Israel's primary aims - to return the hostages and "get rid" of Hamas - but families of hostages have criticised the decision, saying it showed the government had given up on their loved ones.

Israel says Hamas is still holding 59 hostages, 24 of whom are believed to be alive.

Egypt, a mediator in talks, said the fresh strikes were a "blatant" violation of the ceasefire.

Wafa says a woman and child were killed in an air strike north of Khan Younis overnight into Wednesday, while four others were killed in a strike in Gaza City.

Gaza's health ministry has yet to give a death toll for the latest strikes.

Hamas has confirmed that several of its leaders were killed in Tuesday's strikes, including its de facto head of government, Essam a-Da'lees.

Meanwhile, Islamic Jihad - whose fighters participated in the 7 October 2023 attack which triggered the current conflict - said the prominent spokesman of its armed wing, known as Abu Hamza, was killed. **bbc**

Ukraine ceasefire talks planned Sunday in Jeddah: US official

Talks on a ceasefire in Russia's war with Ukraine will continue on Sunday in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah, US President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff said Tuesday.

In an interview with Fox News hours after Trump held a lengthy phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Witkoff said talks on a ceasefire deal "will begin on Sunday in Jeddah."

Witkoff said the US delegation in Saudi Arabia would be led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio and National Security Advisor Mike Waltz but did not indicate whom they would be holding talks with. Referring to a ceasefire on energy infrastructure and targets in the Black Sea, Witkoff said, "I think both of those are now agreed to by the Russians. I am certainly hopeful that the Ukrainians will agree to it." Ukraine on Wednesday accused Russia of effectively rejecting the US-backed ceasefire proposal, reporting a barrage of strikes on civilian infrastructure hours after Moscow agreed only to pause attacks on the energy grid. Washington has been pushing for a full, 30-day ceasefire as a first step toward a wider settlement of the grinding three-year-old war. **alarabiya**

Turkiye police detain Erdogan rival Imamoglu in corruption, terror probe

Turkish police have arrested Istanbul's mayor as part of what they say are investigations into alleged corruption and terror links.

Ekrem Imamoglu, a key rival of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, was arrested on Wednesday morning, with the state-run Anadolu Agency saying prosecutors issued detention warrants for the mayor and roughly 100 other people.

Imamoglu posted a video saying, "We are facing great tyranny, but I want you to know that I will not be discouraged." He accused the government of "usurping the will" of the people.

Authorities also closed several roads around Istanbul and banned demonstrations in the city for four days in an apparent effort to prevent protests following Imamoglu's arrest.

Imamoglu was elected mayor of Turkiye's largest city in March 2019 in a historic blow to Erdogan and the president's Justice and Development Party, or AK Party, which had controlled Istanbul for a quarter-century.

While the AK Party pushed to void the municipal election results in the city of 16 million, a repeat election several months later saw Imamoglu win again.

Imamoglu retained his seat following local elections last year, in which his Republican People's Party (CHP) made gains against the AK Party. The AK Party still emerged as the dominant winner across the country, causing the CHP to face internal criticism regarding its leadership, internal rivalries and strategic direction.

On Tuesday, a university in Istanbul invalidated Imamoglu's diploma, effectively disqualifying him from the next presidential race as having a university degree is a requisite for running in elections under Turkish law.

CHP – the main opposition party – was due to hold a primary on Sunday where Imamoglu was expected to be chosen as its candidate in future elections. The vote is now unlikely to proceed.



Turkiye's next presidential vote is scheduled for 2028, but early elections are possible.

CHP's chairman, Ozgur Ozel, denounced Imamoglu's arrest as a "coup". "Currently, there is a power in place to prevent the nation from determining the next president," he said. "We are facing an attempted coup against our next president." Al Jazeera's Sinem Koseoglu, reporting from Diyarbakir, said those arrested include prominent journalists and business figures.

"The main opposition figures have reacted to the decision saying that it is unlawful and illegal," she said. Government officials insist the courts operate independently and reject claims that legal actions against opposition figures are politically motivated.

aljazeera

Saudi Crown Prince launches Saudi Architecture Characters Map

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has officially launched the Saudi Architecture Characters Map, featuring 19 distinct architectural styles inspired by the Kingdom's diverse geographical and cultural characteristics.

It highlights Saudi Arabia's commitment to celebrating the country's architectural heritage, enhancing quality of life, and modernizing the urban landscape in Saudi cities as part of Vision 2030, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

As Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Saudi Architectural Design Guidelines, the Crown Prince said that Saudi architecture reflects the cultural and geographical diversity of the Kingdom, according to SPA.

"Saudi architecture blends our rich heritage with contemporary design thinking. We are enhancing urban landscapes and quality of life as well as building an architectural framework that balances the past and the present. This model will serve as a global source of inspiration for innovation in architectural design," he said.

"Saudi architecture will indirectly contribute to economic growth by making our cities more attractive to visitors and tourists, which will stimulate sectors such as tourism, hospitality and construction. It also envisions a future where our cities and communities thrive," the crown prince added.

According to the Crown Prince, the map aims to enrich the urban architectural diversity of the Kingdom, elevate urban landscape in cities and empower local talent.

By 2030, it is expected to contribute over SAR8 billion to the Kingdom's cumulative GDP and create over 34,000 direct and indirect job opportunities across the engineering, construction and urban development sectors.

Designed with flexibility in mind, the map provides developers with guidelines that allow for modern building materials without imposing additional financial burdens. Each of the 19 architectural styles offers three design typographies: traditional, transitional and contemporary – encouraging creative expression while preserving the authenticity of local architecture. **alarabiya**

Agreement signed to facilitate electronic...

From P1

“Through this initiative, not only will national revenue collection, expense management, and salary administration become easier, but traders and financial institutions will also be able to conduct their transactions more effectively,” Khalid said as quoted by the statement.

The payment systems integration is a modern financial method designed in light of information technology, ensuring transparency in financial operations while reducing bureaucracy in the country's financial and banking systems.

The Kabul Times